

# SPANISH DOCKERS' ANGER EXPLODES

Spanish dockworkers are continuing their struggle against the threat to their jobs posed by the "Socialist" Government's "restructuring" of Spanish ports.

The latest struggle was provoked at the beginning of August by the firm Contenemar's refusal to hire registered dockers and to pay wage rates stipulated in the industrial agreement, failure to observe health and safety rules and to keep required documents on weight and contents of containerized cargo, use of scab labor, and general anti-worker attitude.

In response, the autonomous dockworkers' union, Coordinadora, called for a strike against Contenemar and its subsidiaries in all ports August 29th. The intermittent strike hit all Spanish ports, but the toughest fight took place in Barcelona, where Contenemar brought in scabs provided by the fascist groups Fuerza Nueva and Franco's Guard. On September 14th, strikers armed with sticks and lead pipes boarded a vessel at the Alvarez de la Campa docks and engaged the fascist strikebreakers in battle, sending a dozen to the hospital and throwing several overboard. Only one striker was arrested, and he was released a few hours later. The next day dockers occupied the premises of *El Corte Ingles*, a major magazine, and demanded that they stop using material shipped through Contenemar.

Other strike actions were reported in Alicante, Bilbao, Las Palmas, Tenerife, and Valencia.

Toward the end of September Coordinadora reported that some 200 workers in Barcelona, 76 in Las Palmas, 20 in Tenerife, 16 in Valencia, and 15 in Alicante had been subjected to disciplinary layoffs of 10 to 40 days for their refusal to work with scabs and other acts of insubordination. These workers were then organized to carry out actions and receive financial support through union collections.

The strike continued intermittently into October due to Contenemar's intransigence. Continued scab labor, under police protection, led to an illegal general strike in all Spanish ports beginning October 25th. Only those ports where the UGT (Aviles and Pasajes) and CC.OO. (Santander and Sevilla) held sway kept working. (The UGT's scabbing resulted in a brawl between UGT and Coordinadora dockers October 1st in Pasajes.) October 6th saw workers' demonstrations in most ports, with violent clashes with police. In Barcelona, where police used a helicopter to pursue strikers, 49 workers were injured and 7 jailed. In Valencia 5 strikers were arrested and many injured when police on horseback attacked pickets.

As of this writing (October 30th) the outcome of this latest battle is still unknown. We hope to have more information available for our next issue.

M.H.



## GM TO SHUT 11 PLANTS

In a move to cut costs and regain a share of the US auto market, General Motors announced November 6th that it would close 11 of 149 US plants. The 11 plants earmarked for closing, which employ about 29,000 people (more than 5% of GM's US workforce), include 6 of GM's 30 assembly plants in the US, and are currently producing 730,000 cars and trucks a year.

Most of the closings will occur next year, and all are expected to be completed by 1990. Of the 26,000 hourly and 3,000 salaried workers to be affected, 17,450 are employed at seven facilities in Michigan, 6500 in two plants in Ohio, 2900 at a plant in Illinois, and 2200 at one in Missouri.

The announcement made clear that the shrinkage of the auto workforce is far from over. The number of hourly workers has fallen from a peak of 725,000 in 1978 to 510,000. GM currently employs 132,000 salaried and 380,000 hourly workers, including the 127,000 employees of its subsidiaries, Electronics Data Systems and Hughes Aircraft. An additional 20,500 of its workers are on layoffs.

It is not yet clear how many of the employees at the targeted plants will lose their jobs. Under contractual

agreements between the United Auto Workers and GM, some employees may be able to transfer to other GM facilities or be retrained for other jobs in the company. But UAW officials noted that many of the more-senior employees at the facilities had already transferred to other plants, reducing the chances that the remaining workers, with less seniority, will be offered jobs elsewhere in the company. In 1982 the union made great concessions to the company in its contract, but pointed to new company-paid training centers to teach new skills to laid-off workers unlikely to be recalled. Other than that, all the UAW leadership has done to face the changes in the auto industry is attack the Government for not doing more to keep foreign cars out of the US.

But slamming Japan is not the answer. Regardless of who makes the cars, the US private-car market is about saturated. Better the workers should demand that the plants in question be retooled and turned to producing something more useful, such as public-transit busses and subway cars. American labor needs to revitalize the domestic economy by producing useful goods and services for itself.

## P-9 MURAL DESTRUCTION HALTED

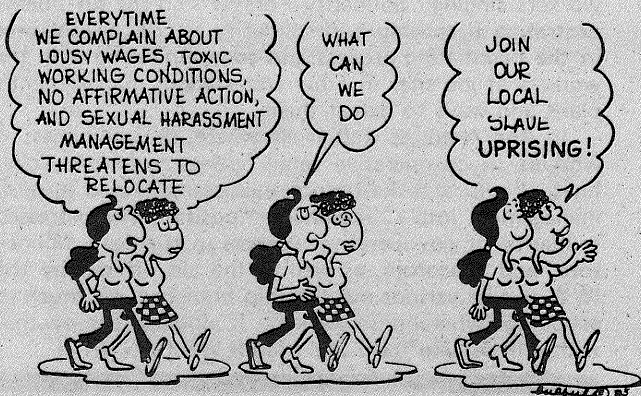
On October 8th attorneys for original P-9 rank-and-filers appeared before Mower County District Court Judge James Mork seeking a court order to restrain UFCW trustees from continuing the destruction of P-9 art (see the November *IW*). At peril were the mural on the exterior of the Austin (Minnesota) Labor Center, and a monument to ABC reporter Joe Spencer and the McDonnough family, killed in a helicopter crash. Having previously destroyed other works of art in the Center, UFCW trustees had begun to sandblast the mural while rank-and-filers gathered in protest.

The Court granted a temporary restraining order to prevent destruction of the monument with the stipulation that a gentlemen's agreement be concluded between the plaintiff rank-and-filers and the defendant UFCW to the effect that nothing would be done to the mural. The Court indicated its willingness to immediately issue another TRO should the trustees take any further action

against the mural. An initial hearing of the dispute was scheduled for October 13th.

On October 13th the UFCW asked the Court to continue the case to October 15th because they hadn't had enough time to prepare. Joe Kennedy, spokesperson for NAMPU, said the UFCW was going judge-shopping in an effort to throw the case into Federal Court. The delay was granted subject to all previous stipulations, and the hearing was subsequently rescheduled for November 12th.

On November 12th the UFCW trustees moved to have the case thrown into Federal Court (where it would be heard by Judge Devitt, who upheld the trusteeship in the first place). Judge Mork did not grant this motion, declaring that District Court was an appropriate forum barring a Federal Court order to the contrary. Judge Mork then continued the TRO, in effect issuing a preliminary injunction preventing the UFCW from destroying anything until after a full trial hearing. The UFCW can still petition Federal Court for a change of venue.





# PEOPLE'S WHEREHOUSE WINS FAVORABLE CONTRACT

Defeating efforts by management to institute merit pay at the cost of benefits, People's Wherehouse IU 660 in Ann Arbor has just ratified a new contract that preserves union power in the workplace and solidarity in the rank and file, and guarantees yearly increases in hourly wages of 20¢ each year over its two-year duration.

Other contractual gains extend the base wage to new employees after a three-to-six-month probationary period,

with each department having the right to reduce the probationary period from six to three months on a case-by-case basis, and provide truckers with an additional week of vacation time to be taken between November and February of each year, the most-stressful work period for truckers. Other workers who put in a 40-hour week will receive two and a half weeks of vacation and two and a half weeks of sick time each year.

A previous contract, signed in 1984, kept wages as

they had been. Both union and management agreed at that time that the Wherehouse was in economic trouble. The 1984 contract contained a clause providing for the re-negotiation of compensation, mutually agreed on by union and management, in the event that business should improve.

Under the old contract and previous co-operative practice, all workers at the Wherehouse (truckers, warehousemen, receptionists, millers, and purchasers) received the same pay: \$7.30 an hour. This contract continued in full force till September 1986.

In the fall of 1985 management contracted a management-consultant firm and a consultant, Vince Ciccarelli, to the tune of \$30,000 a year, to "improve the viability of the business". Since the Wherehouse is a link in a multi-state chain of co-operative enterprises subjected to common management procedures, the advent of Mr. Ciccarelli and his firm's strategies was of interest to a network of workers much larger than the Ann Arbor Wherehouse.

From the onset of his employment, Mr. Ciccarelli sought to use the re-negotiation-of-compensation clause in the 1984 contract to advance a plan of merit pay determined by management without union input in a shop which had not even agreed to differential pay. According to Sarah Rucker, chairperson of the Wherehouse union local, management's strategy was to pit individual workers from different departments against each other by establishing different wage values for work done without any union participation in the determination of such values. The institution of merit pay would have meant the erosion of workplace democracy and the end of co-operative self-determination.

In the face of this ploy by management to divide and conquer the workforce, the Wherehouse local advanced the possibility of accepting a merit-pay scheme democratically decided on by the rank and file; that is, the union would determine the differences in value of work done. Management was outraged by the notion that the workers should determine the value of labor. Re-negotiation of compensation broke down.

In April 1986 negotiations for a new contract began in earnest. Initial negotiations involved clarification of language in articles of the 1984 contract having little to do with wages, and resulted in agreements preserving worker participation in management decision-making.

In July negotiations over wages began. Management proposed a scheme of merit pay built on a base wage of \$7.30 an hour, with pay increases to be determined by management. The local's position was that workers had not received an increase in wages for five years, and had seen their wages reduced by inflation of commodity values to the tune of -\$1.54 an hour. The union sought pay increases of 90¢ an hour for the first year and 40¢ an hour for the second year of a two-year contract in order to recover a measure of lost buying power. These modest demands recognized the difficulties faced by co-operative enterprises in the corporate-dominated marketplace.

Given a base wage of \$7.30 an hour, management proposed a scheme of not less than a 10-cent-an-hour wage hike overall, with no more than three merit pay hikes a year. Management would cap wages at \$10 an hour for truckers, \$9.50 for warehousemen, \$9.25 for receptionists, \$9.75 for millers, and \$9.50 for purchasers. Management would decide to whom, how, and when pay hikes would be given. *Management proposed eliminating benefits for the purpose of increasing a base wage from which it would determine the value of each sector of the workforce, individual worker by individual worker.*

In the face of such maneuvers by management, the local engaged in job-site actions demonstrating worker solidarity. An unfortunate epidemic of influenza in September kept many workers in their beds, forcing cancellation of the quarterly inventory. Other occasions found workers singing "Solidarity Forever" on the line, demonstrating friendship and solidarity at critical junctures in the negotiating process, and communicating with the workers at job sites in other states about management's plans and ways to defeat them.

In Ann Arbor as well as elsewhere, the willingness of workers in co-operative retail outlets to honor picket lines, should a strike become necessary, helped to push management into a "reasonable" position. The expressed solidarity of co-operative workers in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, as well as the aid offered by the IWW and its various membership branches, did much to encourage Wherehouse workers. It all goes to show that with a little help from our friends WE CAN WIN!

## NOTICE ON ELECTION FOR GST AND GEB

Because of mailing delays to the West Coast, the IWW has been asked to convey the following message to the IWW membership:

THE PERIOD OF TIME ALLOWED FOR THE ELECTION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 17TH, 1986. MEMBERS SHOULD CAST THE SECOND, PINK BALLOT SENT OUT TO REPLACE THE FAULTY WHITE BALLOT RECEIVED WITH THE LAST GOB. ALL MEMBERS WHO MAY NOT HAVE RECEIVED PINK BALLOTS SHOULD CONTACT THE GA IMMEDIATELY SO WE CAN SEND THEM TO YOU.

## .....PAID TO LIE.....

Following the resignation of State Department spokesperson Bernard Kalb (who was upset by reports that he and the news media had been made victims of a Reagan Administration dis-information campaign), there was something of an uproar from the boss press, who felt that their trust had been abused. On the TV that evening the editor of the *Washington Times* (Reverend Moon's daily mouthpiece for his ultra-conservative, proto-fascist views) argued that the dis-information campaign was so ineptly done that his reporters had seen through it immediately, and therefore no one should be upset by it.

Yet the Administration planted its dis-information successfully in such "respectable" newspapers as the *Wall Street Journal*. And no one should be surprised by this. There've been several studies done of newspaper content and reporting practices in recent years, and most have found that the boss press (like TV and radio) serves ultimately as a conduit for the Government and the corporations.

Grab a copy of the *New York Times* today (any other paper will do), and see how many of the stories rely on "administration" sources, or a "spokesperson" for some government agency or corporation. Every once in a while some enterprising reporter does some digging, and does an article that tells what's really going on. (Sometimes these articles even get printed, helping to shore up the media's image.) But the bulk of the reports—the stuff that fills the news hole (the space between the ads) day in and day out—is pabulum, dished out by the rich and powerful and consumed by us working people.

But it would be a mistake to assume that reporters just pass on anything that's told to them. If you've ever read a newspaper carefully enough to find the labor news (try the business section, but don't expect to find much) you know better. Only those in power can hope to have the media repeat (sorry, report) whatever nonsense they happen to be peddling that day. Labor unions generally break into the news only when they strike, and even then you can hardly find out what the strike's about between the anguished cries about "menacing" pickets, companies on the verge of bankruptcy, industry analysts giving wildly-inflated estimates of strikers' wages, and other such nonsense. When the UFCW sold out the Hormel strikers, for example, there wasn't a word from the strikers themselves about the proposed contract, or even a hint that they might be expected to object to it. Indeed, the coverage was so misleading that *Bayou La Rose*

(to cite a leftist journal I happened to read) proclaimed that the strikers had won! So a worker who relies on the boss press to keep up with labor news is in bad shape.

Another example is the USX (US Steel) dispute. The union insisted that workers were locked out, while the company claimed it was a strike. Most press accounts noted the disagreement, but in their headlines and leads they called it a strike. Hardly mentioned in the coverage was the fact that workers offered to work under the old wages and conditions while negotiations continued, but the company refused.

In Britain, mis-information and distortion by the boss press during the British miners' strike (which prompted the Direct Action Movement to issue a pamphlet entitled "Tell Us More Lies About the Miners") reached such a pitch that printworkers found themselves compelled to respond. The British press is even more servile to government and capital than the US press (difficult though that may be to believe), but workers are better organized. After the *Daily Express* printed an entirely-fabricated speech attributed to Mineworkers leader Arthur Scargill, printers refused to handle the paper the next day, forcing the *Express* to allow Scargill a 2,000-word response a few days later. When the *Sun* devoted two-thirds of its front page to a particularly-vicious attack against Scargill on May 15th, 1984, workers refused to handle it, and the *Sun* for that day carried this notice: "Members of all *The Sun* production chapels refused to handle the Arthur Scargill picture and major headline on our lead story. *The Sun* has decided, reluctantly, to print the paper without either." I could cite several other examples, though far less than there should have been, and none in the US for the last 60 years.

Newspapers, for the most part, are produced by union labor. Union members, without the least thought, actively aid the employing class in spreading their lies and poison. This shameful conduct will continue as long as our class is mis-organized into business unions, where it is not un-organized altogether. It's because you can trust the boss press to misrepresent the facts and tell us what the Government and the employers want us to hear that it's so important that workers build their own press. What have you done lately to build the *Industrial Worker*?

Jon Bekken

## US CLOTHING WORKERS ADOPT SALVADOR TEXTILE UNION

At a time when Layne Kirkland and the AFL-CIO hierarchy are calling for protectionist legislation against foreign imports to try to prevent the erosion of US jobs, the California affiliate of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union is taking a different tack. It has adopted a textile union in El Salvador with 250 workers involved in a sit-in strike as a "sister union", and is raising funds for them.

These strikers, mostly young women, had been getting \$4 a day for making American-label designer jeans at CIRCA, a Salvadoran company connected with Levi Strauss of San Francisco and other American apparel firms.

Francisco Acosta, North American representative of the Salvadoran labor federation FENASTRAS, says about this unusual happening: "We want to create new kinds of links with the United States. When ordinary US workers understand our situation, they give us strong support."

Many large American clothing makers have moved their factories to Asia and Latin America for cheap labor. So instead of protectionism to stem the loss of jobs here, the ACTWU is trying direct intervention to improve the lot of the Salvadoran workers, contending that this will strengthen the security of American textile workers.

"The kinds of jobs our members do are the kinds of jobs we lose because workers in countries like El Salvador

have no legal rights," said Mary Ann Barnett, ACTWU representative in San Francisco. (The Duarte Government, which is militarily and financially sustained by the US capitalist state, is notorious for its heavy-handed strike-breaking.)

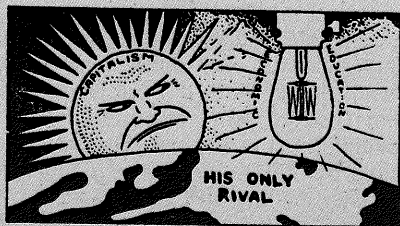
She says further that union workers at Colshire of California, a maker of women's casual wear in Watsonville, vividly feel the effects of lower wages and poorer working conditions that Third World clothing workers are up against. With the foreign competition, Colshire is hard put to pay the five-dollar-an-hour wage guaranteed by the union contract.

The Salvadoran strikers are demanding a 20-dollar-a-month raise, as the costs of civil war are driving prices so high that \$4 a day is a starvation wage. They further demand the re-instatement of several fired workers.

The IWW has long been at the fore in advocating international labor solidarity as a means of combatting the exploitive practices of multi-national world capital. Fred Thompson's booklet "World Labor Needs a Union", published by the IWW in 1963, is a fine example of our perspective. Protectionism offers no real security. And those workers whose jobs depend on exports will take a beating as countermeasures crop up abroad against protectionist laws here. Band-aid solutions are no protection at all—they just cause more bleeding for the workers.

The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers have the right idea. Hopefully this trend will grow till the reactionary impact of national boundaries no longer divides the world's working class. For workers in all nations have more in common with workers everywhere else than they do with their countries' ruling classes—whether these be of the corporate or state-capitalist variety.

Harry Siitonen, San Francisco, X324965





# THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE AND LABOR

The Reagan Administration's Star Wars offensive scuttled the Reykjavik summit and continues to destabilize all international efforts at arms control and reduction or elimination of nuclear weapons. Aside from its illusory practicability as a defense system in the event of nuclear war and its strategic role as a red herring in the arms-reduction process, the Strategic Defense Initiative has grave consequences for US labor.

For some time critics of military spending have known that investment in weapons systems costs jobs. Recently a non-profit Lansing, Michigan economics consulting firm, Employment Research Associates, issued a study entitled "The Empty Pork Barrel: The Employment Cost of the Military Buildup, 1981-1985". This study, which does not deal with projected Star Wars programs, shows that the 190-billion-dollar increase in Pentagon expenditures (from 147 billion in 1981 to 239 billion in 1985) generated 7,224,000 jobs. However if that money had been spent on normal economic activities, it would have generated 8,370,000 jobs. The study said: "There was a net loss of over 5,000 jobs for every \$1 billion that went for the buildup.... The industry that showed the biggest net loss was retail trade, with over 600,000 jobs lost. The medical and health services industries were next, with a net loss of 349,000."

Now we must consider the exponential effects of eventual Star Wars research and development on the economy in light of the astronomical sums it is likely to take to put it in place. The Office of Management and Budget estimates that research and development of a ballistic-missile defense system, as advocated by Reagan and his military high-tech cronies, will cost 500 billion over a period of 10 to 20 years. The Department of Defense will need 33 billion between now and 1990, and another 30 billion or more between 1990 and 1995, just to find out if a ballistic defense system like SDI will work! The Department of Energy will receive two billion over the next five years, and existing anti-satellite weapons systems (technologies relevant to SDI) will soak up another four billion over the next five years. Thus well over 60 billion dollars (without factoring in the normally-exorbitant cost overrun of 300% for Pentagon programs, as well as hidden allocations to NASA and NSA) will flow into the hands of Aerojet General, AVCO, Boeing, Hughes Aerospace, Lockheed, Rockwell, TRW, and the like. And these initial funds are mere pittance compared to the estimated bill of one to two trillion dollars that will be handed the taxpayer should SDI be developed without interruption. Indeed, the 19 largest SDI contractors are so tantalized by this enormous concentration of capital that they have contributed six million dollars to various political-action committees for the purpose of influencing candidates who hold positions on key congressional committees. And this is only the beginning.

Aside from the obvious stupidity of developing space-based systems with a "kill probability" that will still permit the overall nuclear destruction of our country in case of nuclear war, there will be few if any secondary spinoffs beneficial to the already-depressed civilian economy. The classified nature of research and develop-



ment, and the narrow specificity of the technologies involved, will occupy a very small but significant fraction of the workforce in capital-intensive enterprises producing little if any expansion in useful goods and services.

Star Wars is not a new idea. It has been around quite awhile, and over the last 10 years about eight billion dollars have been spent on programs directly relevant to SDI. The absorption of workers in computer science and electronic engineering into the military-industrial economy has left over 50% of civilian firms with a chronic shortage of personnel. A 1983 study by the Council on Economic Priorities concluded: "If the economic benefits of military research and procurement outweighed the costs, we would expect that American firms in industries closely allied with the military would have maintained or expanded their overall market shares. But the contrary is true in the electronics and machine-tool industries. The Japanese have significantly penetrated markets for electronic memory chips and computer-controlled machine tools. America's dominance in the commercial-airline market is being challenged...." The Council found that there is "a negative relationship between the share of Gross Domestic Product spent on military research and development and the rate of productivity growth among major industrial nations." Japan, which spends 1% on its military, seems to know something.

The overall effect of SDI on the American labor force will be to inflate labor costs for a small sector of technical workers as well as inflate the commodity values of high-tech components for industry in the US, while labor costs and commodity values remain more or less stable in competing countries. The net loss in jobs because of the growing non-competitiveness of American goods in the international marketplace will be compounded by dramatic decreases in government spending in the civilian domestic economy. Quite simply, the US, which became a debtor nation in 1985, will go bankrupt if the Strategic Defense Initiative is not stopped. SDI is part and parcel of the endo-colonization (or reduction to "Third World" status) of the American working class.

## US FACES WINTER WITH RECORD NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

As winter weather sets in, officials in cities around the US report record numbers of homeless people seeking shelter and food from hard-pressed local agencies. The officials also report a marked change in the characteristics of the shifting population of the homeless: more women, more children, and younger men, who will typically spend more time unemployed and unable to afford adequate shelter than in the past. So much for "our" glorious economic recovery.

Says Mildred Lincoln, a board member of the Coalition for the Homeless in Chicago, "We're seeing the trend of needs change drastically from just 'the poor' to the 'middle-class suddenly poor'. They lose their jobs, their credit cards, and their mortgage. It's definitely not your stereotypical wino in the alley anymore." Such a trend, reported in city after city from Boston and Baltimore to Houston and Seattle, is increasing the pressures on social agencies whose aging shelters and social programs were designed for handfuls of homeless people, mostly for single, middle-aged men, many of whom had alcohol or drug problems.

### ACROSS THE NATION

The Massachusetts Committee for Children and Youth found that Boston rents, among other costs, had increased 300% since 1981 without corresponding increases in personal income, leaving 500,000 families in that state at risk of homelessness based on their income.

Connecticut's third-largest city, New Haven, has that state's largest homeless problem, variously attributed to rapidly-increasing rents, a vacancy rate near zero in rental housing, a loss of older rental housing to new development, and a relatively-small shelter system. Last year New Haven had fewer than 40 families in emergency housing at any one time. This October it had 116 families.

In New York City, a record number of homeless men, women, and children are expected. The city's Human Resources Administration expects that the number of

single homeless men and women it will have to shelter will grow this winter from 9,000 to 10,000 and that the number of families will grow from 4,000 to 5,000. Meanwhile an undetermined number live in the streets and abandoned buildings.

Officials in Newark, the largest city in New Jersey, estimate that there were 4,000 to 7,000 homeless people last year, with little change this year. In 1984 New Jersey officials set up a program to reduce homelessness, in part by trying to prevent evictions of people who fall behind in rent or mortgage payments. The program helped 1,801 households in its first year and 2,260 in its second.

An Atlanta, Georgia, group estimates that the city has 5,000 homeless people, but housing for only 1800. Many are chronic alcoholics or drug users, or mentally ill who have been turned out of hospitals. But the segment growing fastest is made up of dispossessed women and families. Even those who find housing may be forced out of it. James Beatty, co-ordinator of the Task Force on the Homeless in Atlanta, told of one landlord who, upon learning that a family had been homeless, required an additional security deposit of two months' rent.

The Reverend William Pape, executive director of the Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry in Kansas City, said many families fled depressed farming areas and unsuccessfully sought jobs in the city. Many local people were only "one major expense" from being homeless.

Donna Skinner, family-services director for the Salvation Army in Phoenix, saw its 1986 emergency-housing money exhausted by July. The Saint Vincent dePaul Society in Phoenix served more than 1290 lunches a day this summer, twice the anticipated amount.

When Phoenix's bunk-lined warehouse shelter for 380 is filled, the overflow swarms to an adjacent tent city whose nightly population regularly exceeds 500. Among the residents one recent night was Jess Hinerman, a 25-year-old ex-offender from Cleveland who told reporters

QUESTION AUTHORITY

# LABOR BRIEFS

## NY BOSSES CHARGED WITH POISONING WORKERS

On November 16th, the president, vice-president, and plant foreman of a Brooklyn, New York thermometer-manufacturing company were indicted on charges of criminally assaulting and recklessly endangering the lives of their workers by "knowingly and continually" exposing them to toxic mercury. The defendants—William Pymm, Edward Pymm, and Thomas Daniels—are specifically charged with assaulting Vidal Rodriguez, one of the 80 employees of the Pymm Thermometer Corporation, with mercury—causing permanent brain damage from mercury poisoning. An undetermined number of other employees also were endangered by the mercury.

Attorney General Robert Abrams and District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman of Brooklyn said the indictment by a Brooklyn grand jury marked the first time criminal charges had been brought in New York against corporate executives for wrongful exposure of workers to toxic chemicals. The defendants, who are also accused of conspiracy and falsifying business records, later pleaded not guilty at the arraignment in the State Supreme Court in Brooklyn. They face up to 15 years in prison and thousands of dollars in fines if convicted.

## UNION PACTS GAIN 1.3% WAGE HIKES

In late October the Labor Department reported that first-year wage and benefit increases in major union contracts came to 1.3% in the first nine months of 1986. Concessionary wage cuts averaging 5.5% forced on steel, copper, and aluminum workers limited overall union gains to 1.2% in the first six months of 1986. The 2% wage hike won by 400,000 telephone workers this summer, and raises averaging 2.5% for construction workers, raised the average increase to 1.3% for the 1.85 million union workers involved in contract negotiations. This is well below the average 2.3% gain in first-year wages and benefits last year, and less than half the 3.2% increase in expiring contracts signed two or three years ago.

The survey, made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, covers only collective-bargaining contracts for a thousand workers or more. While the overall average is below 1.5%, nearly two-thirds of the 1.85 million workers won an increase averaging 3%. What pulled down the increase were the 433,000 workers, slightly less than a fourth of the total, who were forced to accept first-year pay freezes, and the 153,000 workers forced to take paycuts averaging 8.2%. Cost-of-living escalator clauses were eliminated for 20% of the workers covered in collective-bargaining settlements so far this year, including 200,000 telephone workers and 91,000 steel workers.

The survey does not include 660,000 workers covered by major collective-bargaining agreements that expired from July to October but have not been re-negotiated or ratified. In addition, 376,000 workers are covered by 93 major collective-bargaining settlements that expire between October 1st and January 1st.



he was seeking a new life in the Sun Belt and had heard that 18-dollar-an-hour construction jobs were plentiful. Instead, he discovered the pay was \$6.75 an hour when jobs could be found, and he found none.

In Houston two or three years ago, those who became homeless were recent arrivals unable to find work. Now more homeless people are long-time Houstonians who have lost their jobs.

Who is a typical shelter resident? "Her husband has lost his job," says Jerry Collins, associate director of the Star of Hope women's shelter in Houston. "He's gotten discouraged, depressed, and even angry to the degree that he's going to abuse her and the children eventually. After he does that, he gets so guilty he just disappears."

In San Diego County, the homeless at any one time are estimated at 5,000 or more, most of them families and women, a 25% increase since 1983. But social workers note that the homeless population turns over about four times a year, meaning that many more than 5,000 a year experience homelessness.

The result of Reagan's boom-town war economy is record dispossession of women, children, and families and record profits to warmongers. It is time for people to take matters into their own hands, time to occupy living spaces and demand utility turn-ons and housing rehabilitation and construction for citizens which will also provide employment.





So the golden state of California has voted for "English only" as the paranoia of the Herrenvolk runs deeper and deeper. Your humble scribe wonders if the good Native Sons will be consistent in their rejection of alien influences and proceed to stop using foreign words such as San Francisco, Sacramento, and Los Angeles, which should henceforth be referred to as Saint Francis, Sacramento, and The Angels. Though that might raise some questions about the separation of Church and State, it might be of comfort to those who want to bring prayer back into the schools.

One wonders if people might feel a little edgy about identifying their hometowns as Lard, Toasted Cornmeal, or Loneliness, much less admit they get their drinking water from Whore Creek. Perhaps the good Native Sons in their far-sighted wisdom have arrived at the conclusion that if all the signs are in English only, the wetbacks will give up and go back where they came from.

Alas, that is not to be; for the inscribed sentiments on some statue out east—"Give me your tired, your poor, and your hungry"—are being taken quite seriously by many tired, poor, and hungry. A colleague of mine who has recently been to Mexico told how it is still possible to get an approximation of a full meal for 800 pesos, but the majority of those who "eat out" must content themselves with a Bull Durham-size taco for 100 pesos (about 11¢ in Freedomland moola). It should also be understood that those who happen to have 100 pesos in their jeans at one time do not represent the majority of the population.

Despite massive unemployment, with its attendant poverty, and the severe austerity program of the Party of Revolutionary Institutions, there is still a two-million-person government bureaucracy whose only apparent function is being bureaucratic; and we all know that bureaucrats do not render their talents for charity. The president of Mexico, with all his talk about the necessity of permanent austerity for his people, is quite reluctant to eliminate this bureaucracy, saying he does not want to create any tensions within the political system.

The capital city has become an overcrowded megalopolis, a common phenomenon in many poor countries where people can no longer live on the land. Last year's earthquake in Mexico City is an example of the negative consequences of such urbanization. While many were shocked at the fact that thousands died as a result of the quake, a lesser-known but no-less-shocking statistic is that some hundred thousand children die each year in Mexico City from pollution alone.

Why do people leave the land to endure even-worse poverty in crowded and polluted megalopoli? Much land that was formerly used for subsistence farming has been taken over by large agricultural corporations that mass-produce for export to more-affluent countries like the United States. In Northern Mexico vast tracts of land are being used to grow tomatoes and other table vegetables for export to the US. Because the pesticide regulations are far more lax in Mexico than north of the border, many workers and their families die annually from pesticide poisoning. Most of these workers are Indians who have migrated from the southern part of the country and have little or no knowledge of the deleterious effects of pesticides. Whole families, including small children, work in these fields right next to all the spraying. So whenever you're paying a few cents less for veggies at the supermarket, bear in mind that you're also buying your share of poisoned babies.

Despite the enacting of "English only" in the Golden State and the tougher immigration laws that are being passed, the motivations for migrating to El Norte are increasing rather than diminishing, and the paranoid xenophobes up here had better come to grips with their thinking and start looking for the root causes of the whole mess.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch in Freedomland, Christmas trees have been staring us in the face ever since Halloween, without even giving us a chance to digest our Thanksgiving turkeys. Christmas carols sung by the ghost of Bing Crosby will soon be assaulting our ears from every downtown street and shopping mall till we are ready to heartily agree with Ebenezer Scrooge. Even though we have less money to spend than in Christmases past, the merchants are out to get every penny.

Only in America can the spirit of the Prince of Peace be played to death. If there is ever a genuine Second Coming, poor old Jerusalem Slim had better forget about chasing the money-changers out of the temple, or he won't even last the 31 years he had the last time around. However if we lowly homo sapiens ever get our act together, we can chase out the money-changers ourselves. Even Saint Pete himself might decide he's been staring at the Pearly Gates too damn long and prefer to be where the action is.

C. C. Redcloud

# THE WASTE OF WAR

At a time when governments on both sides of the Atlantic are re-emphasizing their long-held view that large military expenditures, particularly for research, spur growth in the economy as a whole, a spate of studies has appeared in both the US and Europe pointing out yet again the wastefulness of military spending, even when the weapons are not actually used to destroy.

A study in the current issue of the British publication *Lloyds Bank Review* says there appears to be an inverse relationship between high military spending and industrial performance throughout the West. The study points out that Britain and the US, which consistently spend more than other Western countries on military research, score low on every gauge of industrial efficiency, while West Germany and Japan, which spend next to nothing on military research, have highly-efficient industries.

And the Council on Economic Priorities, a New York-based non-profit research group, has issued an updated version of its 1985 study of the economic effects of the President's Strategic Defense Initiative, warning again that the space-oriented missile plan is likely to accentuate the shortage of scientists in private industry while developing systems that are too expensive and specialized for civilian application.

Even a study commissioned by the French Defense Ministry (the French Government has recently decided to increase funds for military research at nearly twice the rate of spending on civilian projects) examining civilian spinoffs from military spending on lasers, fiber optics, and composite materials found that though a few aerospace companies have profited from military-funded discoveries in these areas, most of French industry has gained little.

Economists have pointed out for years the inflation-

ary effect of military spending, which puts money into workers' pockets without producing additional goods for them to buy. Apologists for the military-industrial complex counter by claiming that military spending promotes technological innovation by funding research projects that private companies could never afford to finance. But as modern weaponry becomes more sophisticated, the technologies it requires are becoming increasingly disassociated from civilian needs. As a concrete example, Eric Stubbs of the Council on Economic Priorities points to the military interest in replacing silicon with gallium arsenide in microchips because it is far more tolerant of high levels of atomic radiation, a technological advance that would have little civilian application.

In a new study published by the Center for European Policy Studies, a Brussels-based research group, Henry Ergas points out that in Britain and France, military discoveries with civilian applications tend to remain bottled up inside a few companies that often do not make full use of them. The result is an increasingly-polarized economy, with a few high-technology companies heavily dependent on military orders which absorb scarce skills and resources, and many low-technology companies that get little benefit from government funding in research. West Germany falls into a different category, putting less emphasis on "cutting-edge technologies" and stressing instead the "widespread dissemination of technological capabilities through industry" by promoting technical skills and investment generally.

But it is no accident that the countries spending the least on weapons have the most-efficient economies, for the wastage of war extends far beyond the battlefield.

plp

## .....musings.....

Sometimes I think about how capitalism creates a language that re-inforces its control over our thought patterns. Take "individualism"—a concept that even some individualist anarchists wear like a crown of glory. "I'm a self-made man. I don't need or want help from anyone." How often have you heard that?

Take a few moments to look around the area you occupy right now. Pick out one object that you enjoy using and try to imagine the number of hands and minds that it took to create, produce, and transport that object to you—the number of skills and talents involved, the number of different nationalities involved, the thousands of years of evolution involved. Really think about it and it's mind-boggling. Then multiply that by the number of such objects you use each and every day. If you have really considered the hundreds of thousands of persons over thousands of years of evolution it has taken to supply you with those items, you will quickly realize how totally dependent we all are on one another and on our

ancestors for the degree of comfort we enjoy and take for granted.

Given a little thought, the concept of individualism quickly evaporates into thin air like the mist from a lake when warmed by a rising sun. The only way you can truly claim the title of "individual" is to move to an island where you will have no further contact with any other human. Having done this, you will quickly revert to running naked and digging roots for food as if mankind had never existed.

If the concept of individualism evaporates under scrutiny, can the concept of selfishness have validity? If I am not and cannot be an individual, then I am merely a molecule in that body called humanity. It then becomes obvious to me that the health and nutrition of all the other molecules in that body have a direct bearing on my existence. If all those others were producing and creating at their highest potentials, how many diseases might they cure? How many inventions might they create to improve my life? Literature? Art? Freedom? Peace? Is helping others to reach their highest potentials a selfish or an unselfish act, Mr. Bourgeois Preacher?

It is time for working people to think through capitalist language, bourgeois concepts, and pseudo-Christian definitions. If "individualism" is an illusion, then working-class organization becomes an act of survival; and Father Hagerty's wheel, the IWW structure, becomes an anatomical chart.

Marx said, "We will either have socialism or barbarism," and if you were watching the circus in Iceland, you understand that the time for choosing is upon us. However, I would expand the wording of Karl's prognosis. We will either have democratic, worker-controlled socialism or barbarism.

Just some thoughts.

Gary Cox



### THE "FORBES 400"

Every year *Forbes* magazine publishes its list of the 400 richest Americans. This year the minimum net worth required to make the list grew from \$150 million to \$180 million, or 20%. The net worth of the *Forbes* 400 grew 16% last year, when the Gross National Product grew 2.7%, pointing up the growing concentration of the nation's wealth in the hands of a few.

Three years ago, six out of seven of the *Forbes* 400 made the list by inheriting their money or acquiring it through the passive holding of land and energy resources, the economically-useless shuffling of paper, or the free acquisition of government monopolies like TV licenses. This year the best way to get rich in America remains inheritance, but the Reagan era has introduced a new way to get rich fast which has finally landed some of its practitioners on the list: the leveraged buyout, whereby a small group of investors borrows a large sum of money to buy a company from its stockholders, and then pays off the loan by selling company assets. Six of the newcomers on the list rose to the top this way; the seventh and richest of the newcomers, with an estimated \$500 million, pioneered in "junk bonds", the high-risk securities often used to finance leveraged buyouts.

★EDUCATION ★ORGANIZATION ★EMANCIPATION

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

**Industrial Worker**

P. Ames, R. Christopher, C. Cortez, J. Garland  
M. Hargis, P. Pixler, F. Thompson

General Secretary-Treasurer: Mark Kaufmann

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# GST'S POSITION ON PRISON ORGANIZING

Since prison organizing has become a matter of public debate in the pages of the *Industrial Worker*, it has become imperative for me to clearly define how I, as GST, view the situation.

General Executive Board Chairperson Semel, in her report to the Convention and the membership, states: "The IWW Constitution does not expressly prohibit the organization of prisoners.... The membership of this

union will ultimately decide whether it is in the best interests of the IWW to help organize and educate prisoners, or whether such organization diverts the Union from its revolutionary labor objectives."

I agree. However, what the Executive Board Chairperson fails to mention in her report is also important. Article II, Section 1(a) through Article II, Section 2 states the requirements for membership in the IWW. Nowhere

in this section do prisoners exist as a separate group of individuals entitled to membership. Article II, Section 1(a) as amended in December 1985 states: "Membership is open only to wage or salaried workers except as provided in Section 1(b). Membership can be denied to those wage or salaried workers whose employment is incompatible with the aims of this union." Article II, Section 1(b) specifically includes unemployed/retired workers, working-class students, apprentices, and homemakers as groups who are eligible for membership. I call attention to these sections of the Constitution to demonstrate the ambiguity that exists in our union's relationship to the issue of inmate membership and prison organizing.

The previous administration, with J. Bekken serving as GST, allowed individual prisoners to become members on the recommendation of delegates. Fellow Worker Bekken made it clear that he felt it was more appropriate for prisoners to organize through the General Defense Committee. This administration has followed the same policy. This policy (given the ambiguity I have mentioned) has been contested by many in the union. I have received letters from members of the present Executive Board questioning the constitutionality of this policy. I have also received communications from a great many members expressing their concern.

The situation before the Convention seemed to be headed toward some kind of resolution of this problem. Instead, the actions and inactions of the Convention have increased the ambiguity. The status quo as defined by FW Paul Poulos, in his letter to the *Industrial Worker*, may state his views concerning this ambiguous situation, but it in no way reflects how I view the situation. **PURE AND SIMPLE, THE CONVENTION PASSED NO RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING PRISONER MEMBERSHIP OR PRISONER ORGANIZING.** The ambiguity that has existed for over a year continues to exist and will continue to exist until it is resolved by convention or referendum.

Before the Convention the union contained a handful of inmate members, but we are now facing a qualitatively and quantitatively different situation. With the prospect of large-scale prison organizing before us, we need to closely examine our policies. Prisoners, unfortunately, are subject to manipulation and controls by the State apparatus which are not applied (in most cases) to other members of our union. It is nearly impossible for prisoners to hold democratically-run meetings or engage in job actions given the overwhelming power of prison authorities. The possibility of ineffectually wasting our energies, or being maneuvered into an untoward situation, is clearly there unless we carefully set policy on prison organizing.

In prior reports in the General Organization Bulletin I have tried to present constructive proposals to deal with this matter. The resolution brought before the Convention by the Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch and IU 660 branches in Ann Arbor also seemed to point the way toward a constructive resolution of the present ambiguity. For the remainder of this administration, or until such a time as some concrete policy is adopted, I, as GST, will reject all applications for membership from inmates unless they are accompanied by proof that they are engaged in actual wage labor. I will also reject applications for inmates from delegates unless they are accompanied by proof of engagement in wage labor. Pay stubs, tax forms, or statements by prison authorities are the types of proof I will find acceptable.

The General Executive Board and advocates of prison organizing must resolve the ambiguity surrounding the role of the IWW in prison organizing. To proceed blindly without clearly understanding the ramifications of our actions is a prescription for disaster.

Mark Kaufman  
General Secretary-Treasurer

## reader's soapbox

### FROM THE COLLECTIVE

#### Fellow Workers:

The editorial note accompanying Fellow Worker Poulos's letter in the November *Industrial Worker* should not be construed as a repudiation of Fellow Worker Bekken's article on the recent IWW Convention. That was not our intention. That article was essentially correct in asserting that the defeat of the Michigan resolution (offering IWW assistance in the creation of an autonomous prisoners'-rights organization) left the IWW without a definite policy vis a vis prison organizing. The status quo within the organization was thereby upheld (that is, it is left up to the discretion of delegates whether or not to sign up prisoners into the union). Prisoners who are members of the IWW can indeed remain members, with all the rights and obligations of membership, until such time as the membership of the IWW adopts a definite policy on the question.

The Industrial Worker Collective is not the final arbiter of IWW policy or of decisions made at IWW Conventions. Our responsibility is to report on what is happening in the world of labor and to interpret events in the light of the IWW's perspectives. The outcome of the IWW Convention on the issue of prisoner membership in the IWW and prison organizing was, in our opinion, inconclusive. The lack of a definite union policy on this matter leaves room for differing interpretations. We are seeing these interpretations being debated in these pages. The IW Collective hopes that this debate will lead to the adoption of a definite policy on prisoner membership in the IWW and the IWW's connection to prison organizing.

### TO THE INDUSTRIAL WORKER COLLECTIVE:

FW Poulos's account of the IWW Convention published last issue (Reader's Soapbox, November *IW*) is simply untrue. The Convention minutes quite clearly show that no resolution such as Poulos described was approved by the Convention delegates, **OR EVEN BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR FOR DISCUSSION.** It is indeed unfortunate that the *Industrial Worker* has chosen to publish this misinformation, thus aiding FW Poulos's efforts to mislead the membership into believing that the IWW has endorsed his position favoring the organization of any and all prisoners into the IWW.

Like the rest of my Convention report, the account of Convention actions on the prisoner issue was entirely accurate, though it did not go into everything that might have been said on the subject. When the IW Collective asked me to prepare the article, they asked that I not go into FW Poulos's [alleged] unconstitutional and fraudulent use of proxies (dealing with an unrelated matter) on the Convention floor—for which he is currently facing charges—in order to defeat the only motion to come before the Convention that touched on the issue of prisoner organizing in any way. I agreed, as it has always been my preference that such matters be handled internally. Similarly, I made no mention of the vote censuring the Southwest Ohio Branch for its departure from majority rule, and for other improprieties associated with its prisoner-organizing efforts.

My article states that "no decision was reached" on whether the IWW should organize prisoners. This is a matter of public record, and I challenge Poulos to provide even a shred of evidence to the contrary. While the issue was discussed, no resolution on the matter was approved or offered. Thus the Convention did not take any action or make any decision on the issue, except insofar as it defeated a motion pledging the IWW to support the establishment of an autonomous prisoners'-rights organization (as I reported).

Thus the status quo remains in effect. But what is the status quo? The IWW Constitution provides that "Membership [in the IWW] is open only to wage or salaried workers...", providing limited exceptions for the unemployed, retired, and such. Individual delegates have taken it upon themselves to enroll prisoners not engaged in industry into the IWW despite this rather clear language. A resolution to remedy this problem was withdrawn before the Convention because there had not been proper notification (as required by the IWW Constitution before anyone's membership is terminated). The fellow workers engaged in prisoner organizing have been understandably reluctant to seek a vote of the membership approving their activities.

FW Poulos asserts, as part of his contention that the Convention article was distorted, that I have "vigorously

expressed views against prisoners holding membership in the IWW". This is quite simply not true. Members of the IWW who are imprisoned for their activities in the class struggle are clearly eligible for membership, as are prisoners engaged in prison industry. The degree to which such prisoners can effectively organize and participate in the IWW—given the constraints under which they live and work—is another question entirely.

This issue has been created by a small group of members who have repeatedly and publicly stated their opposition to what the IWW stands for and is trying to do. Unfortunately, FW Poulos—who in the past has been a productive member—has chosen to support them in their efforts to divert us from our task of building revolutionary industrial unionism, and to transform the IWW into some sort of umbrella political organization. That such persons have chosen to make me a focus of their attacks is an honor, and one that I will strive to be worthy of.

Yours for the IWW

Jon Bekken, X33117

## WHERE WE STAND ON WAR

Every intelligent working man and woman is opposed to all capitalist wars. We vote against all war appropriations. We are opposed to all armies and navies. We object to having one workingman sacrificed to the interests of the capitalist class.

Even the capitalist has no patriotism in the shop, mill, or factory. He talks patriotism and the flag when he wants to use you to fight his battles against other capitalists. But he hires the man who will work for the lowest wages, be he German, French, English, Japanese, or American.

He exploits you, discharges you, permits you to starve regardless of your nationality. In every land he makes new laws, or evades old ones, to bring foreign workingmen into that land when the foreign worker will work for lower wages.

He only emphasizes your nationality when he needs you to fight wars against other workingmen, who are also fighting for new markets for the employing class of the foreign land.

Workingmen of all countries have no fight against each other. Their interests are common. Their only enemy is the capitalist who exploits them.

The employing class is at present making all the rules in the game, and every one of these rules is to further their interests at the expense of those who work.

We are opposed to all armies and all navies because they always have been, and always will be, the weapons of the ruling class to keep us in wage slavery. The army and navy have never been used in the interests of the working class.

Just remember, when the politicians are considering appropriations for national armaments, that these will one day be used against us and never for us, that every army and navy means that some workingmen will be forced to kill other workers in the interests of those who exploit you.

We want no army, no navy, not one cent expended on the implements of warfare, because these will not only be used against us today but will successfully crush any rebellion or revolution on the part of your class and my class in the future.

The only foreigner we know is the boss who exploits us, whether he be German, English, French, or American. All workers are our countrymen. The capitalist is our enemy.

The only war worth fighting is the class war, the war of the workers against the robber class. The abolition of the profit and wages system is the only fight that will benefit us.

Better to lose a thousand men in your own fight than to lose one workingman in the war for the bosses who rob you!

Not one cent for the armies, navies, or munitions of war!

And a general strike to prevent war!

Mary Marcy  
March 1915

(This essay is reprinted from the book *You Have No Country, Workers Struggle Against the War*, by Mary Marcy. These anti-war essays were written between 1904 and 1918 and were published by the Kerr Company. *You Have No Country* is available for \$4.50 from the IWW.)

## Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World

**THE WORKING CLASS AND THE EMPLOYING CLASS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON? THERE CAN BE NO PEACE SO LONG AS HUNGER AND WANT ARE FOUND AMONG MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE AND THE FEW, WHO MAKE UP THE EMPLOYING CLASS, HAVE ALL THE GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.**

**BETWEEN THESE TWO CLASSES A STRUGGLE MUST GO ON UNTIL THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZE AS A CLASS, TAKE POSSESSION OF THE EARTH AND THE MACHINERY OF PRODUCTION, AND ABOLISH THE WAGE SYSTEM.**

**WE FIND THAT THE CENTERING OF THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIES INTO FEWER AND FEWER HANDS MAKES THE TRADE UNIONS UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE EVER GROWING POWER OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS. THE TRADE UNIONS FOSTER A STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH ALLOWS ONE SET OF WORKERS TO BE PITTED AGAINST ANOTHER SET OF WORKERS IN THE SAME INDUSTRY, THEREBY HELPING DEFEAT ONE ANOTHER IN WAGE WARS. MOREOVER, THE TRADE UNIONS AID THE EMPLOYING CLASS TO MISLEAD THE WORKERS INTO THE BELIEF THAT THE WORKING CLASS HAVE INTERESTS IN COMMON WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS.**

**THESE CONDITIONS CAN BE CHANGED AND THE INTEREST OF THE WORKING CLASS UPHOLD ONLY BY AN ORGANIZATION FORMED IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL ITS MEMBERS IN ANY ONE INDUSTRY, OR IN ALL INDUSTRIES IF NECESSARY, CEASE WORK WHENEVER A STRIKE OR LOCKOUT IS ON IN ANY DEPARTMENT THEREOF. THIS MAKING AN INJURY TO ONE AN INJURY TO ALL.**

**INSTEAD OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOTTO, "A FAIR DAY'S WAGE FOR FAIR DAY'S WORK," WE MUST INSCRIBE ON OUR BANNER THE REVOLUTIONARY WATCHWORD, "ABOLITION OF THE WAGE SYSTEM."**

**IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS TO DO AWAY WITH CAPITALISM. THE ARMY OF PRODUCTION MUST BE ORGANIZED, NOT ONLY FOR THE EVERY-DAY STRUGGLE WITH CAPITALISTS, BUT ALSO TO CARRY ON PRODUCTION WHEN CAPITALISM SHALL HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN. BY ORGANIZING INDUSTRIALLY WE ARE FORMING THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY WITHIN THE SHELL OF THE OLD.**



# FRANCE / RACISM / TERROR

Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris and Premier of the right-left-right, hup-2-3-4 French Government, has long stood as far to the right as he might and still retain a sufficient electoral base in supposedly pluralist France. Outspoken advocate of law-and-order politics and racist anti-Arab measures, Chirac has always been quick to profit from acts of political violence. He is also known to be quick to create crises where there are none.

Within months of becoming the Mayor of Paris in the mid-'70s, Chirac and the right-wing press orchestrated a media-induced crime panic justifying the massive deployment of cops in Parisian subways at a time when thousands of Black African and North African workers (as well as French working-class people) were being evicted from Paris by the French equivalent of urban renewal.

Increased police presence and surveillance meant intensified harassment of dissident French youth, known leftists, and anyone who didn't look "French". Thousands of persons were subjected to spot identity checks (and arrest if they could not provide papers, or if their papers were not in order) on their way to and from work, the preferred times for identity-check dragnets. Not surprisingly, Government statistics on crime and violence in public places indicated no substantial basis for increased intervention by police forces. Chirac's right-wing city government, the reactionary press, and France's well-organized Fascist network were merely whipping up the spectre of "Arab" violence in preparation for things to come—the hoped-for mass expulsion of penurious "foreigners" and "terrorists". Curious to note that during this period France, unlike her immediate neighbors, was largely free of political violence by either Middle Eastern groups or the domestic Left. However....

France has always had an organized paramilitary Ultra-Right embedded in the corporate establishment, the state bureaucracy, the military, and the "milieu", the French equivalent of the Mafia. And France, second only to the German-Austrian axis, is notorious for its long history of anti-Semitism. These forces became quiescent with the defeat of European Fascism in the Second World War and the rise of Gaullism in France, only to raise their heads during the struggle for Algerian independence. Fascist elements in the colonial forces in Algeria (especially the infamous paratroopers) carried out mass atrocities against the population of Algeria and engaged in acts of terror in France, including an abortive coup d'état. Again, the paramilitary Right was superficially suppressed. However it soon resurfaced with a spectacular string of bank heists carried out with the help of Italian fascists implicated in major acts of terror (notably the bombing of the Bologna train station in Italy and the bombing of the Madeleine synagogue in Paris).

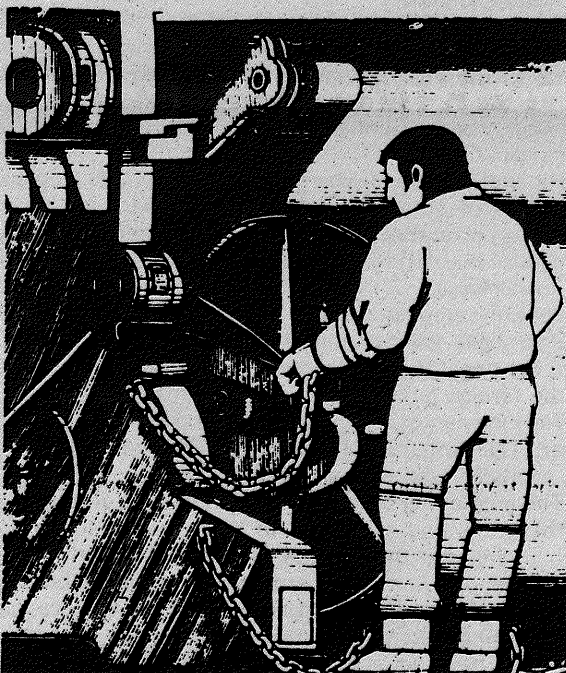
Economic reconstruction and a measure of prosperity returned to France following World War II somewhat later than they did to other European countries which benefitted from the Marshall Plan and other forms of US

aid. Little American aid was extended to France, where Gaullist quasi-independence refused to accept an overall integration of the French economy, military, and State apparatus into an American-dominated world order. As the French economy boomed in the '60s and early '70s, millions of guest workers flocked to France with Government approval from all over the Mediterranean Basin and Africa. The majority of these workers were/are from ex-colonies such as Algeria, the Ivory Coast, Mali, Morocco, and Tunisia. Taking up occupations at the bottom of the wage scale abandoned by French workers, these guest workers left home and family to live in substandard housing and labor under the worst conditions, subject to the superior sneer of Gallic culture. Simultaneously, French racism underwent a sea change and began directing its virulent polemics at the "boogers" from North Africa and the "niggers" from Black Africa—not quite, however, forgetting the Jews and the Communists. Nevertheless, it is the former who pose the gravest threats to French womanhood, family, racial purity, employment, and national security.

Bodies began to turn up in ditches. North African neighborhoods in French cities were subjected to random gunfire from speeding automobiles. Beatings became commonplace, deportations more numerous.

The Oil Embargo, the depression of the economy, and the chronic unemployment which began quickly thereafter provided the fascist Right with windfall profits in demagoguery. Fascist youth groups installed in the Law Faculty of the University of Paris increased their attacks on guest workers and the Left, political and cultural. Action Francaise began its alarming growth from an extremist fringe scorned by center-right traditionalists to a political party with parliamentary representation capable, in a nightmarish future, of making its presence felt during any of the all-too-common institutional crises.

## ORGANIZE the UNORGANIZED



dices are logical and are shared by Europeans in relation to the hunger and slaughter in the East.

Is it important if the Right Wing controls Kinnock's Labour Party? It is if you are a member of the unskilled laboring class facing the economic demands of the middle class. History teaches us time and again that one can satisfy the economic demands and fears of the middle class only by attacking the living standards of the unskilled laboring class and destroying, with State force, our ability to visibly protest.

No major strikes, no great protests—but the good ol' Tory party continues to create sex scandal after sex scandal for our delight and amusement. And by God, on a cold November day they make good reading. A senior Tory minister resigns for having played at doctor and nurse with his secretary, and finds that he now qualifies for a greeting card on Father's Day. A Tory minister resigns because he gave a pretty prostitute over \$3,000 to leave the country with another top Tory. To cheer up the Sunday reading intelligentsia, another Tory politician is awaiting the dread knock on the door by the Law for playing whipping games with juniors.

Bar-room authorities on these matters point out that scandals about Labour Party politicians are always about dipping into the till and stealing the Party's money. Having moved from the back street and the barricade, one has to feather the ol' economic nest. Having lost one's office, but having gotten away with the loot, comes the time to join the Tory party and the Good Life: You chase me, dear, then I'll chase you through the old baronial hall; and let us pray that we don't get caught by the butler, the Sunday newspapers, or that old bag Ma Thatcher.

Politics: It's politics.

Arthur Moyse, London

Our good democratic friends the Center-Right, the Socialists, and the Communists fell quickly into line with the oppression. Each wave of paranoia was/is accompanied by dragnets and expulsions. Travel fare and nominal incentives were offered to guest workers "willing" to leave France. The French Communist Party vociferously joined the chorus for expulsion in the name of a sacred proletariat which has demonstrably abandoned it for this and numerous other betrayals of class interest. The Mitterand Government and Socialist electoral hegemony—with their capitulation to US economic demands and military strategy, suppression of labor militancy, and austerity plans—did a more-than-adequate job of keeping the *auto-da-fe* burning.

Twice in the 20th Century Socialist governments have come to power in France. The first time was just before World War II and involved a wave of nationalizations of more-or-less bankrupt industries no longer able to compete in the international marketplace. At that time the Socialist rationalization of the economy consisted of suppression of the revolutionary demands of the labor movement in the interests of French capital. The Mitterand Government was no better, and of course Chirac is worse. Nevertheless, "grosso modo", French Socialism takes the State when it becomes necessary for the sovereign people to buy up bankrupt capitalist companies, repress the demands of working people in a time of political-economic crisis, and generally prepare the way for intensified international conflicts. French Socialism is the means by which French capital pensions off its failures at the expense of the working class.

The recent wave of bombings of civilian targets was blamed on nearly everyone, till it was finally revealed that a lunatic fringe of Lebanese nationals of Armenian origin was responsible. The artfully-contrived hoopla of the gutter press and reactionary political sectors reached such epidemic proportions that a major figure in Action Directe (which itself has reportedly bombed French Government, South African, and Israeli targets without loss of life) was led to literally bust himself by calling a press conference for the purpose of denying that the group had anything to do with attacks on the civilian population. Action Directe subsequently set off a bomb to protest the forced expulsion of 101 Malians in the gathering gloom of racism and police-state strategies.

Things are not well in France, where the shibboleth of terrorism is used by the newly-emboldened forces of fascism for the purposes of suppressing all meaningful movements for social and economic change.

*Something in Common: An IWW Bibliography*, by Dione Miles, Wayne State University Press, 1986, 560 pages, cloth, \$49.50

Under this puzzling title is a listing of over 5,000 books, pamphlets, articles, plays, dissertations, and other studies of the IWW. You can hope to find it soon in any major library. The 33-page alphabetic index at the back gives some idea of its scope and focus: a hundred items on Centralia, about half as many on Butte, more than that on a 1918 trial in Chicago, over a hundred each on Bill Haywood and the Lawrence strike, about the same number in total about what the IWW did for lumberworkers or farmhands—and, apart from a couple of leaflets, only one on what the IWW did in Cleveland from 1930 to 1950.

This volume lists 235 non-fiction books and 50 novels on the IWW; 3,113 articles drawn from over 300 journals; 814 pamphlets on the IWW published by it and 380 published by others; 150 newspapers and magazines in various languages issued by the IWW; 20 plays, films, operas, and other stage presentations on the IWW; 44 biographies, mostly in manuscript; and over 200 doctoral dissertations and master's theses on the IWW. And Dione Miles notes that this list would be longer if more dissertation titles indicated their content.

Where can you dig this material? Fortunately, many of the most-useful references are to magazines than can be found bound in many libraries, and thus avoid the trauma of microfilm—the old *International Socialist Review and Survey* especially, along with the *Nation* and *New Republic* for coverage of events then recent, or *Labor History*, which has a 20-year Winter 1981 index for coverage of years gone by.

If you can't find the magazines cited, the Union List of Serials in your local library will tell you where to hunt, and enduring librarians develop a tolerance toward diggers. The 120 pages listing pamphlets and IWW periodicals carry initials of libraries in which these can be found, for the most part Wayne State or libraries in New York City. Most of these pamphlets are one-, two-, or four-page items, and come mostly from the early period 1905 to 1935. Are historians repulsed by anything less than 50 years old?

Missing is the modern history of the IWW. Here you will find over a hundred sources on the minor skirmish the IWW had with the obsolescent silk industry in Paterson, New Jersey in 1913, a gallant attempt to aid workers caught in a doomed technology, yet only one reference covering the effective and continuous representation the IWW gave to thousands of Cleveland workers from 1935 to 1950, and that to the relatively-inaccessible dissertation that Roy Wortman wrote in 1972—nothing about recent IWW efforts.

## \* \* \* sound of a distant drum \* \* \*

Empires die, international consortiums collapse, political parties become warring factions: At this moment I am not feeling well.

Having kicked out socialism and the singing of the Red Flag and replaced the red banner with a pink rose (in that order), Comrade Kinnock—the rear-guard leader of Britain's Labour Party—now feels that the final battle has been won as he reviews his middle-class cowboys riding over the political corpses of the Labour Party activists, whose crime was that they openly proclaimed a battle for a vote-losing socialist society.

While camera-strung American tourists queued their way through the ancient houses of Parliament, Neil Kinnock notched another Custer-style victory when his slate of right-wing captors took control of the Labour Party Shadow Cabinet and voted the squabbling Left into the back benches. The Shadow Cabinet forms the front bench of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Loyal and Faithful Opposition. When one of Ma Thatcher's ministerial thugs rises to announce the latest Tory attack on the laboring class, it is a member of the Loyal Labour front-bench Shadow Cabinet who rises to cry out words that will ring through the ages, at least as long as it takes for Kinnock's pale pink rose to die in history's window box.

Is it important? It is important for the American military machine, because it means that if Kinnock forms a government after the next election, American bases and warheads will be safe in the British Isles. But there are no safe bases for us British, whom the American Military have already written off as expendable First Wave carrion, much as they wrote off hundreds of thousands of Koreans, Vietnamese, and South and Central Americans. If one is a loyal Republican Party supporter who votes Democratic, believes in an American God, objects to being taxed to protect unthankful foreigners, and lives the good life in Middle America, where there is no fear of the local factory closing down, then these preju-



# BOOKS

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- ☐ Fellow Union Member.  
10¢ each; 5-15 for 5¢ each; 16-500, 3¢ each; over 500, 2¢ from Tacoma/Olympia IWW, 2115 S. Sheridan, Tacoma, WA 98405.
- ☐ Introduction to the IWW.  
10¢ each; bulk rate 40%, prepaid, from San Francisco IWW, P.O. Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.
- ☐ Solidarity Bulletin (monthly publication)  
\$10 a year from Vancouver IWW, P.O. Box 34334, Station D., Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6J 4P3.
- ☐ IWW baseball caps (one size fits all)  
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# KERR COMPANY ARCHIVES NOW AT NEWBERRY LIBRARY

Some 300 people attended a conference/celebration at Chicago's Newberry Library October 17th to commemorate the centennial of the Charles H. Kerr Company, oldest labor publishing house in the world, and to herald the opening of the Kerr Company's extensive archives, recently purchased by the Newberry.

Author and radio personality Studs Terkel presided over an hour-and-a-half program of short talks, reminiscences, and labor songs. Newberry president Charles T. Cullen pronounced the Kerr archives "one of the richest collections on the American Left in existence". A presentation by University of Wisconsin labor historian Allen M. Ruff, who is completing a dissertation on the Kerr Company, was followed by a lively panel discussion in which historians and members of the Kerr board of directors discussed the firm's colorful history and its prospects for the future. Old-time folksinger Win Stracke, who flew in from Mexico for the occasion, sang "I Dreamed I Saw Joe Hill Last Night", noting that he had sung the same song at Lucy Parsons's funeral in 1942.

Messages were read from friends and fellow workers unable to attend the gala event, including Charles H. Kerr's 92-year-old daughter Katharine, novelist Meridel LeSueur, and Fred Thompson of the IWW, who has also served as the Kerr Company's vice-president since 1971. For the grand finale, folksinger Bucky Halker led a rousing rendition of "Solidarity Forever". The author of that venerable anthem, Ralph Chaplin, was for many years the Kerr Company's staff artist and a member of its board of directors.

The Kerr archives consist of some 60,000 items going back as far as 1885, the year before Charles Hope Kerr started his publishing house in Chicago. The IWW is abundantly represented in the collection, which includes hundreds of Kerr Company books and pamphlets, orig-

## FAREWELL, FELLOW WORKER

FW Lawrence Murphy, a friend of the IWW and generous contributor to the New York Branch's P-9 Adopt-a-Worker Campaign, has died. FW Murphy will be missed by all.

## TAKING A STAND

The June day was unseasonably warm up there on the platform of the church in south-central Los Angeles, but we were shivering. The decision hadn't been easy. This was a symbolic gesture, and we weren't expecting success. Fanatics? Probably.

Carl had indicated he'd welcome a supportive team of civil disobedients when he was arrested for evading the peacetime draft. So here we were—Rick, Mary, John, and I—shackled together by a metal chain, each link forging a message: We stand behind you! Thus we waited for the star performer to join us.

Would there be violence? Our role was clear: peaceful resistance. But what of the US marshals sent to arrest Carl? Would we be injured? Would we share a cell with Carl tonight?

The minister, affectionately known as Father Sam, was delivering a message of good will. Out there in the audience Carl's mother sat proud and fearful.

Suddenly Carl appeared, springing lightly and jubilantly down the aisle with three marshals in pursuit. He leaped to the platform and deftly chained himself to us. He was smiling broadly, his blue eyes twinkling warmth and humor.

Father Sam spread his robe as a protective curtain between the marshals and the c.o. "Please, no violence, gentlemen. This is the house of God."

The gentlemen of the law left looking baffled, but returned forty minutes later with powerful cutters that crunched through the chain. Grabbing Carl by the hands, two marshals roughly dragged him, face-down, over and down from the four-foot platform, down the aisle, and out to their waiting auto.

Change the scene to a Los Angeles college campus some time later. This time arresting marshals found fifteen of us, including a popular psychiatrist and a number of well-scrubbed religious types, blocking the entrance to the school with our prone bodies. The marshals sped full speed ahead. We didn't move. Their car bounced to a stop within a yard of us. The law deliberated. Rough treatment wasn't feasible. Too many spectators attending a conference to record and protest violence. Most gently, the marshals dragged our limp bodies out of the area and drove onto the campus.

We immediately ran to our c.o. resister Jim, locking arms in tight, muscle-firm grips that formed a human chain around him. The nuns sang psalms. The unregenerate psychiatrist and I just shook and sweat. Marshals strong-armed their way through our circle, toppling us willy-nilly to the ground, and grabbed their man.

There were no other arrests.

Dorice McDaniels

inal photographs of early 20th Century strikes, letters from Joe Hill's friend Alexander Mackay and Wobbly folklorist John Neuhaus, a memoir of Bughouse Square by Jack Sheridan, artwork by Ralph Chaplin, and substantial files of material on Irving Abrams, Minnie F. Corder, Gene Debs, Mother Jones, Mary E. Marcy, Lucy Parsons, Boris Yelensky, and many other long-time Wobblies, together with voluminous correspondence from anarchists, socialists, and rebel workers from all over the world.

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### IWW DIRECTORY.....

**ALASKA:** Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage 99508. Barry Roderick, Delegate, Box 748, Douglas 99824.

**AUSTRALIA:** IWW Delegate, 417 King Street (1st Floor), Newton, Sydney.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA:** Vancouver General Membership Branch, Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver V6J 4P3, Canada, (604) 876-8438. West Kootenay IWW Group, Box 941, Nelson V1L 6A5, Canada.

**CALIFORNIA:** San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch, Box 40485, San Francisco 94140. Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland 94609 (415) 658-0293. David Bernreuter, Delegate, 718 Cayuga Street, Santa Cruz 95062. R. M. R. Kroopkin, Delegate, 3924½ Park Boulevard, San Diego 92103. General Defense Committee, Arthur J. Miller, Secretary, PO Box 2576, San Diego 92112.

**FLORIDA:** Fred Hansen, Box 824, New Port Richey 33552.

**GUAM:** Shelby Shapiro, Box 864, Agana 96910.

**IDAHO:** IWW Delegate, Route 1, Box 137, Potlatch 83855.

**ILLINOIS:** Chicago General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee Local 2, 3435 North Sheffield (Suite 202), Chicago 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings first Sunday of each month at 1 pm. Champaign-Urbana IWW Group, Jeff Stein, Delegate, Box 2824, Station A, Champaign 61820.

**KENTUCKY:** Louisville IWW Group, 2024 Baringer Avenue, Louisville 40204.

**LOUISIANA:** IWW Group, Box 16725, Baton Rouge 70893. Ben Trant, 2825 Westover Road, Shreveport 71108.

**MANITOBA:** Winnipeg IWW Group, "Haywire Brack", Delegate, Box 161, Station C, Winnipeg R3M 3S7, Canada.

**MASSACHUSETTS:** Boston General Membership Branch Box 454, Cambridge 02139. Meetings first Monday of each month, 522-7090. Western Massachusetts IWW Group, Box 465, Hadley 01035.

**MICHIGAN:** Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti 48197, (313) 483-3478. Meetings second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm in Room 4001 of the Michigan Union. University Cellar IU 660 Job Branch, 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor 48104. People's Warehouse IU 660 Job Branch, c/o Sarah Rucker, 727 West Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor 48104. IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids 49506.

**MINNESOTA:** Minneapolis-Saint Paul General Membership Branch, PO Box 2245, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate. Meetings third Wednesday of each month, (612) 871-1209.

**MONTANA:** Clark Fork Valley IWW Group, Box 8562, Missoula 59807, (406) 728-6053. A. L. Nurse, Delegate, Route 5, Box 88, Thompson Falls 59874, (406) 827-3238

**NEW YORK:** New York General Membership Branch, Box 183, New York City 10028. Delegates: Robert Young, Box 920, Wingdale 12594. Joe O'Shea, Winklers Farm, Towners Road, Carmel 10512. Rochelle Semel, 788 Columbus Avenue (16D), New York 10025, (212) 662-8801. John Hansen, 302 Avenue C, Brooklyn 11218. Henry Pfaff, 77 Eckhart, Buffalo 14207, (716) 877-6073. Jackie Panish, 99-12 65th Road (5-J), Rego Park 11374, (212) 868-1121.

**OHIO:** Southwest Ohio General Membership Branch and General Defense Committee Local 1, c/o Prison Education Project, Box 56, West Elkton, Ohio 45070. General Defense Committee Local 3, c/o John Steward, Number 158-903, PO Box 45699, Lucasville, Ohio 45699-0001.

**PENNSYLVANIA:** Tom Hill, Delegate, Box 41928, Philadelphia 19101.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Harbinger Publications IU 450, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia 29201, (803) 254-9398.

**TEXAS:** Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kernel, Houston 77087, (713) 921-0877. Andrew Lee, Delegate, 3402 Enfield (Apartment B), Austin 78703, (512) 472-7854.

**VIRGINIA:** IWW Delegate, 18 Boxwood Lane, Newport News 23602.

**WASHINGTON:** Bellingham General Membership Branch, Box 1386, Bellingham 98227. Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle 98144. Spokane IWW, N10109 Wesley, Spokane 99218. Bill Turnmire, Delegate, (509) 466-9503. Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma 98405, (206) 272-8119. IWW Group, Box 392, Walla Walla 99362.

**WISCONSIN:** Madison General Membership Branch, c/o 1846 Jenifer, Madison 53704, (608) 251-1937 or 249-4287.



## REVOLUTIONARY UNION NEWS

**SWEDEN:** The Swedish Workers Centralorganization (SAC) has formally adopted the seven-point program of the Haymarket International Labor Conference. The program, elaborated at the International Conference held in Chicago May 1st through 4th at the invitation of the IWW, calls for strengthening communications among the world's revolutionary and autonomous unions through the exchange of information, press, addresses, and the like and the formation of a telephone chain or tree for speedier contact in cases where quick action is needed. The program also called for another international conference to be held within the next few years to follow up on the Haymarket gathering. SAC has volunteered to host such a conference if enough interest is shown.

So far SAC and the IWW are the only Conference participants to endorse the seven points. We hope the other participating organizations, and those who were not able to attend, will follow suit in the near future. International solidarity begins with better communication.

**SPAIN:** The Ministry of Labor announced September 24th that the National Confederation of Labor (CNT),

.....did.....

.....you.....

...notice?.....

**GOVERNMENT-LYING SURVEY:** An October *New York Times*/CBS News poll found that 53% of those questioned said they thought the Reagan Administration told the truth only some of the time. In a seeming paradox, those who approve of government lying were much more likely to believe that the Government tells the truth. The poll also found that 21% of college graduates thought it was all right for the Government to lie under some circumstances, while only 10% of those with less than high-school educations agreed.

**NO RIGHT TO LEAFLET:** The ACLU recently lost a case appealing the right of would-be candidates to solicit for signatures to get their names on ballots in shopping-center malls. The Supreme Court ruled that each state has the right to determine whether people can leaflet or circulate petitions in shopping malls. With close to half the retail business in this country done in shopping centers, declaring their malls private property is going to make it much harder to reach people.

**NOSY SCHOOL BOARD:** The American Civil Liberties Union is fighting the school board of Stratford, Connecticut, which has been inspecting the interiors of students' parked cars for "illegal or unauthorized materials".

**PROTESTER DELAYS US NUKE TEST:** On October 16th, a nuclear-weapons test at the Nevada Test Site was delayed 20 minutes while a heroic anti-nuclear protester who infiltrated the site was arrested for trespassing.

**TRIDENT SUB PROTEST:** 29 demonstrators were arrested October 27th when they crossed a security line at the Bangor, Washington Trident submarine base and tried to pass out leaflets denouncing the deployment of the US's seventh Trident sub.

**BRITISH PROTESTERS block missile convoy:** On November 4th, about a hundred anti-nuclear protesters intercepted a convoy carrying American cruise missiles through Britain, throwing paint on several trucks and cutting the hydraulic brake line on one. American troops were in control of the 21-vehicle convoy, which was returning to the air base at Greenham Common after maneuvers on Salisbury Plain, about 60 miles southwest of London. Several protesters were arrested.

**17 KILLED IN BULGARIAN CHEMICAL PLANT:** On November 3rd, Bulgaria gave the first details of an explosion that killed 17 people at the country's biggest chemical complex. An article in the trade-union daily *Trud* said preliminary investigations suggested that the November 1st accident at Devnya, near the Black Sea port of Varna, had been caused by a ruptured pipe that brought polyvinyl chloride to a workshop handling vinyl chloride. "If the piping had been regularly checked by X-rays, the fault would have been detected," *Trud* said. "But it hardly seems to have been checked since the pipe was put into action."

**THE FAILURES OF DRUG LAWS:** In 1973, New York's late Governor Rockefeller proposed and pushed through laws that sought to get tough on drugs by sending sellers and users to prison for long terms. In 1977, a committee of the New York City Bar Association evaluated the Rockefeller laws and found that they failed to curb drug use or felonies attributed to drug addicts, such as robberies. The committee said that drug use "is incontestably deeply rooted in broader social maladies... broken families, unemployment, poor income and education, feeble institutional structures, and loss of hope." The committee continued: "It is implausible that social problems as basic as these can be effectively solved by the criminal law." And after years of increasing drug use and decreasing attempts to deal with social problems socially, it is even less plausible.

**HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES:** For more than two years, the official US unemployment rate has hovered around 7%. The constancy of this figure masks a steady decline in the number of people working full-time. The number of people working part-time, "voluntarily", hit 14.3 million in October, nearly 600,000 higher than a year ago, and 6 million people work part-time because they can't find full-time work—a 60% increase during the time Reagan has been in office.

# I.W.W. (WORLD LABOR) NEWS

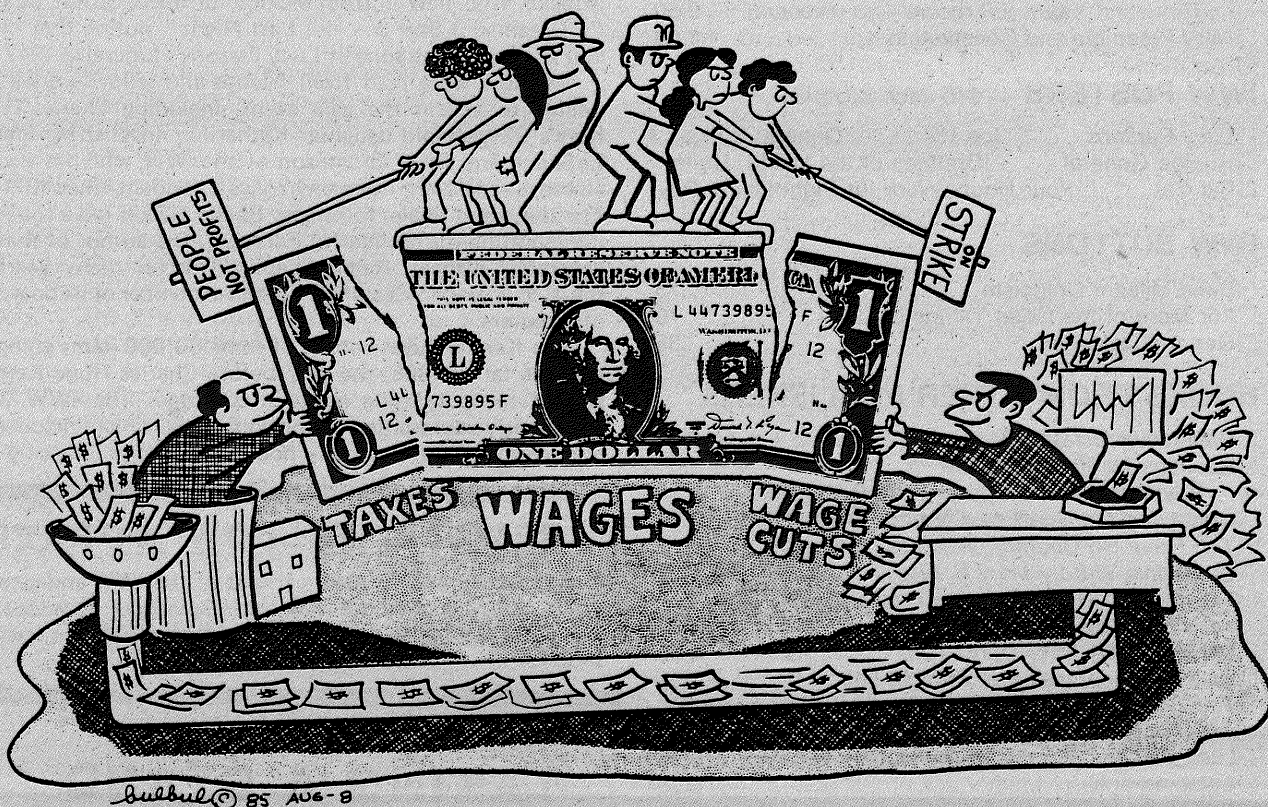
the Spanish affiliate of the anarcho-syndicalist International Workers Association (AIT), is entitled to at least 248 million pesetas as compensation for the property and funds confiscated by Franco in 1939. (That amounts to something over two million dollars.) Still, this is a far cry from the 6,000 million pesetas claimed by the CNT-AIT as its patrimony.

The Socialist UGT (General Union of Workers), on the other hand, has been allowed 4,144 million pesetas

by the Labor Ministry and the use of 120 separate premises for offices, meeting halls, and the like. The CNT-AIT has been promised only one. This despite the fact (noted even by the pro-Socialist Party newspaper, *El Pais*), that during the Spanish Civil War the CNT-AIT was twice the size of the UGT.

Of course, the Labor Ministry's decision is not surprising considering the fact that the Socialist Party is in power and has a vested interest in promoting the UGT and keeping the anarcho-syndicalist movement poverty-stricken. And, whether or not the CNT-AIT ever receives even this small portion of its patrimony is anyone's guess. The existence of two CNTs has been a convenient excuse, up till now, for the Government to delay devolution of the patrimony, and it is likely that further court decisions will be necessary to determine which is the "real" (legal) CNT in the State's eyes.

Meanwhile, the anarcho-syndicalists launched an abstention campaign in the face of this fall's enterprise-committee elections. The CNT-AIT called for a boycott of the committees and the strengthening of the union sections and general assemblies as organs of struggle. The other CNT, no doubt, offered its candidates for election.



## ONE-DAY FRENCH CIVIL-SERVICE STRIKE

Millions of French civil-service workers staged a 24-hour strike October 24th in protest of Government plans to cut 17,000 jobs in Fiscal 1987. Officials of the four unions organizing the strike said that salaries, which have been limited to cost-of-living increases, had actually declined in real terms over the last four years.

The strike disrupted airline and train service, schools, public transportation, postal services, and electricity in some areas, but the response to the strike appeal varied not only from city to city, but within different districts of Paris. About 60% of primary-school teachers observed the strike, as did 42% of high-school teachers, 50% of postal workers, and 50% of bus drivers, but only 25% of subway workers.

The four unions held separate rallies during the day to judge each one's support, with about 20,000 people attending the rally called by the Confederation Generale du Travail, and about 3,000 attending that called by the Confederation Francaise Democratique du Travail. Labor-union membership has been declining in strength, with only one French worker in five currently a union member now, compared with one in four five years ago.

## 1,274 KOREANS CHARGED FOR ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTEST

On October 13th, riot police stormed five buildings at Kunkook University in Seoul, which students had occupied for three days to demand the ouster of the Chun Doo Hwan Government, the dismantling of US nuclear bases in Korea, and the withdrawal of the 41,000 US troops stationed there. As the police charged into the barricaded buildings, a helicopter dropped tear-gas bombs and fire engines turned hoses on students. The public prosecutor's office has said it will press charges against 1274 students.

## DECLINE IN LFPR OF THE OLDER MALE WORKER

Over the last 20 years, the labor-force participation rate of males aged 55 through 64 has declined from 84.6% to 67.2%. According to economists, the decline is due to two causes—high retirement benefits and permanent job losses. Economists are most concerned about the first, since the retirement of the well-paid "highly-skilled" bosses will supposedly reduce "national efficiency". They are also concerned that the retired population will become too much of a burden for those still

working. Thus they suggest that the minimum age at which an individual can receive Social Security be raised to 65 to discourage early retirement. That bosses retire early is nothing new; for the bosses what is disturbing is that workers want to retire early (the average age of retirement is 62 and dropping). It appears that the working conditions under capitalism are so bad that the older male worker would rather walk away from them than endure them a moment longer, even if it is not financially advantageous to do so.

## GOVERNMENTS GETTING BETTER AT HIDING TORTURE

Amnesty International has announced that oppressive governments are increasingly turning to more subtle and secretive forms of oppression to avoid negative international press coverage. Among the practices that are becoming more common are revolving-door detention, "disappearances", psychological abuse, and clandestine death squads.

Revolving-door detention occurs when a government puts a person in prison for a short term, such as 48 hours, then releases the prisoner. A few days or weeks later the same person is picked up again, and the process is repeated over and over. When AI or some other group protests the detention, officials maintain that the prisoner has been released. Meanwhile, the revolving-door pattern can be repeated for months—or in some cases years.

"Disappearances", first becoming well known in Latin America, are now becoming increasingly common throughout the world. People are forcibly removed from their homes by paramilitary agents or secret police, never to be seen or heard from again. The government involved routinely denies any knowledge of or accountability for the "disappearance". AI says relatives of the disappeared often report that the uncertainty about their loved one's fate is worse than knowing the person is dead.

Mock executions, sleep deprivation, water torture, constant exposure to bright lights, drug injections, death threats to family members, and other forms of psychological abuse serve the same purpose as torture, but avoid leaving visible marks. As with physical torture, however, the after-effects of these methods are felt for years in the form of dizziness, nightmares, memory loss, and mental illness.

Clandestine death squads are another way a government can throw a cloak of secrecy over its oppression. The government hires non-uniformed guards or puts its own agents in plain clothes to abduct, torture, and kill citizens.